

Please cancel claims 2-21.

Please add the following claims:

Q2 --22. A stent for placement in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, said stent comprising:

a main tubular stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, and at least one side opening located between the proximal end and the distal end, said side opening having a plurality of laterally deployable elements disposed about said side opening.

23. A stent as in claim 22 wherein the laterally deployable elements are formed as an integral part of the stent body.

24. A stent as in claim 22 wherein, prior to expansion, the laterally deployable elements are aligned in a tubular envelope defined by the tubular stent body.

25. A stent as in claim 22 wherein, upon expansion, the laterally deployable elements extend outwardly from the tubular stent body.

26. A stent as in claim 22 wherein the main tubular stent body is deformable to permit expansion by a balloon catheter.

27. A stent as in claim 22 wherein the main tubular stent body is fabricated using materials with self-expanding characteristics.

28. A stent as in claim 22 wherein at least a portion of the main stent body is radiopaque.

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29. A stent as in claim 22 wherein at least a portion of the main stent body surrounding the side opening is radiopaque.

30. A stent as in claim 22 wherein the side opening comprises a continuous band.

31. A stent as in claim 30 wherein the laterally deployable elements are inwardly projecting loops of the continuous band.

32. A stent as in claim 22 wherein the side opening is a generally circular side opening.

33. A stent for placement in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, said stent comprising:

a main tubular stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, at least one side opening located between the proximal end and the distal end, and a spine region along a longitudinal axis of the stent body, said spine region having a first axial spine in a proximal portion of said stent and a second axial spine in a distal portion of said stent, said first axial spine having a different strut pattern than said second axial spine.

34. A stent as in claim 33 wherein the first axial spine expands radially in response to a first radially outward force, and the second axial spine expands radially in response to a second radially outward force, wherein the first force is less than the second force.

35. A stent as in claim 33 wherein the first axial spine expands radially in response to a first radially outward force, and the second axial spine expands radially in response to a second radially outward force, wherein the first force is greater than the second force.

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36. A stent system comprising:

a first stent, said first stent comprising a main tubular stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, and at least one side opening located between the proximal end and the distal end, said side opening having a plurality of laterally deployable elements disposed about said side opening; and

a second stent adapted to fit within and contact the laterally deployable elements of the main tubular stent body.

37. A method for deploying a stent, said method comprising:

expanding a main tubular stent body; and

laterally deflecting a plurality of elements disposed about a side opening on the main tubular stent body.

38. A method as in claim 37 wherein expanding said main tubular stent

body comprises expanding said main tubular stent body so that said side opening on the stent body is aligned with a branching body lumen.

39. A method as in claim 37 further comprising placing a second stent into

the side opening so that said second stent engages the laterally deflected elements.

40. A method for deploying a stent in a bifurcated lumen, said method

comprising:

providing a stent having a first portion, a second portion and a side opening between said portions;

expanding said first portion against a luminal wall segment on one side of the bifurcation;

aligning the side opening with the branch lumen; and

expanding the second portion on the other side of the bifurcation.

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41. The method of claim 40 wherein said first portion has a first axial spine and said second portion has a second axial spine.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein said first axial spine comprises a different strut pattern than said second axial spine.

43. The method of claim 41 wherein said first and second axial spines are adapted to expand radially at different radially outward forces.

44. A stent for placement in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, said stent comprising:

a radially expandable stent body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen therethrough, and an expandable side opening, said side opening having a perimeter defined by a continuous band of material.

45. A stent as in claim 44 wherein said expandable side opening is generally circular in shape prior to expansion of said stent body and generally circular in shape after expansion of said stent body.

46. A stent as in claim 44 wherein said expandable side opening is generally elliptical or oval in shape prior to expansion of said sent body and is generally circular in shape after expansion of said stent body.

47. A stent as in claim 44 wherein said continuous band of material comprises protrusions which project inwardly to define a peripheral edge of the side opening.

48. A stent as in claim 44 wherein said expandable side opening is symmetric about a longitudinal axis of said stent body.

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